

Soviet reversal of charges against Anna Louise Strong seen as gesture to Peiping: Moscow's recent reversal of the charges of espionage made against Anna Louise Strong in 1949 appears to be a gesture to the Chinese Communists, whose cause she vociferously championed for years.

Miss Strong had frequently proclaimed Peiping's independence from Moscow and had advanced the "Yenan way" as the pattern for colonial Asia. She was arrested and expelled from the USSR in 1949 while attempting to return to North China after a visit to Tito. Prague radio hinted at the time that she was a Yugoslav spy—a peculiarly sensitive charge in view of her planned trip to rejoin the Chinese Communists as they made their final push for victory in China.

Miss Strong's exoneration at this time may be intended to show that Moscow is sensitive to Peiping's feeling of independence. It follows closely Molotov's statement elevating Peiping to the role of co-leader with Moscow of the Socialist camp. It may also have been published during the negotiations now being carried on in Moscow between Yugoslavia and Peiping to show that the USSR has no fear of Titoism in China.

This move also may have internal Soviet implications, since the original announcement on Miss Strong blamed her presence in the USSR on the "negligence of certain foreign relations officials," a reference which may have been aimed at Molotov.

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